

**SOLANO-NAPA COUNTY FSA NEWS**

*February 2007*

**County Committee**  
Linda Neal  
Richard Hamilton  
Craig Gnos  
Jeanine Holdener

**County Executive Director**  
Lynda Janne

**Contact Numbers**  
707-678-1931 or 944-0622  
FAX 707-678-5001

**County Office Staff**  
Laura VanHoose, ext 106  
Bonnie Nogales, ext 102  
Erin Renschler, ext 100  
**FSA Field Rep**  
Bob Currey, ext 110

**IMPORTANT DATES**

***3/1/07: Last day to purchase NAP coverage on vineseed, sunflower, beans, other non-insurable spring seeded crops***

***4/30/07: Last day to timely file fall-seeded report of acreage.***

***5/7/07: Deadline to apply for Emergency Loan due to winter rain & flooding and/or record setting heat July heat wave.***

***6/1/07: Deadline to enroll in 2007 DCP without paying \$100 penalty fee.***

**County Committee Election Results**

**Congratulations to Craig Gnos! Craig was re-elected to represent farmers from LAA 3 on the county committee. Craig was elected to his 3rd consecutive term.**

**The election results for Local Administrative Area 3 are:**

**Craig Gnos: Elected to the county committee (COC),  
Tom Galindo: 1<sup>st</sup> alternate to COC,  
Jeanine Holdener: 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate to COC**

**FSA appreciates all of the voters for taking the time to complete the election ballot. The county committee system works only because of your participation.**

**At its recent organizational meeting, the COC determined Linda Neal would serve as COC Chairperson for 2007, and Richard Hamilton would serve as Vice-Chair.**

**We would like to extend a big THANK YOU to JEANINE HOLDENER, who has served as Advisor to the COC since 1998. Because she has “termed out”, Jeanine will not be able to serve as Advisor after February for**

**at least a year. Advisors assist in ensuring fair representation of all producers.**

**Thanks for all your help, Jeanine!  
We do appreciate you.**

**NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**For non-insurable crops, such as vineseed, sunflower, some bean crops, sudan for seed, etc. FSA offers assistance for producers suffering catastrophic losses through the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP).**

**Eligible producers must apply for coverage of noninsurable crops. All applications for coverage must be filed and the applicable service fees paid at the FSA office by the application closing date. (See box of “important dates”). For coverage, you must pay a service fee of \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per producer per county, or not to exceed \$900 if you are in multiple counties.**

**You should review and apply for coverage on all crops you intend to grow, and specify the intended use of that crop.**

**When your NAP covered crop is affected by a natural disaster, you must notify this office by completing a Notice of Loss, CCC-576, within 15 days of the date of the disaster occurrence, or the date damage to the crop becomes apparent to you. Do not harvest or dispose of the crop until the Notice of Loss has been filed in the county office and a loss adjustor has had the opportunity to inspect the damaged crop.**

**NOTE: Crop losses are determined on a unit basis. A unit includes all the acreage of the crop in the county in which the producer has the same interest. You are required to provide your annual production on crops covered under NAP, and to provide the office with a report of planted acreage (or zero report). Failure to follow through with these requirements will affect the APH (actual production history) on which you are paid if you suffer a loss.**

### Report of Acreages Planted/Grazed

April 30 is the deadline to timely report fall-seeded crops. The deadline to report all other acreage (spring-seeded crops, perennial crops, pasture, orchards) is July 15. Several programs require acreage reports for all cropland be filed: the Direct & Counter-Cyclical program, the Loan Deficiency Program, and the Non Insured Assistance Program.

### Emergency Farm Loans Available

Because of physical and production losses caused by unprecedented rainfall 12/17/05 through 4/26/06, many counties in California have been named eligible for USDA emergency farm loans. Both Solano and Napa counties qualify.

Farmers have 8 months to apply for the loan to help cover part of their actual losses. To be eligible, they must:

- Have suffered at least a 30% loss of normal production directly related to the above-cited cause
- Be able to repay the loan and any other loans
- Be unable to obtain credit elsewhere
- Have adequate security
- Have multi-peril crop insurance if available.

Applicants must complete a certification of disaster losses, reflecting the exact dates and nature of the disaster and how it caused the loss or damage.

The authorization for FSA to accept emergency loan applications under the rainfall authorization expires on February 15, 2007.

In addition, Solano county is one of many receiving a disaster declaration because of losses caused by the record-setting heat wave during July 2006. The authorization for applications under this authorization expires May 7, 2007.

### Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance violation could be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting or growing a prohibited plant – such as marijuana, opium, poppies and other drug producing plants.

### Spousal Signatures

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

### Payment Limitation/Eligibility

USDA payments and benefits are subject to producer eligibility and limitation provisions as defined by law. Documents and forms to determine eligibility and limitation once completed are reviewed on an annual basis. *It is the producer's responsibility* to report changes in the farming operation which may affect payment eligibility and payment limitation.

The Direct & Counter-Cyclical Program has a payment limitation of \$40,000 for direct payments and \$65,000 for counter-cyclical payments. The Environmental Quality Incentive Program has a \$450,000 payment limitation. The Conservation Reserve Program's annual limit is \$50,000/person.

Entities such as corporations, limited partnerships, trusts and estates are required to provide names, addresses, and ID numbers of their members for payment limitation purposes.

### Foreign Buyers Notification

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

Foreign persons who have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

### Changes in Farming Operations

Failure to notify FSA of changes in your farming operation may adversely impact your eligibility for USDA benefits. Changes to your farming operation may include, but are not limited to, a change in the structure of your farming operation or changes in your rental agreement. Any change to your farming operation must be reported to FSA when the change occurs, but no later than September 30 of the program year.

### Loans for Socially Disadvantaged

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) can make and guarantee loans to eligible socially disadvantaged applicants to buy and operate family size farms and ranches. Funds specifically for these loans are reserved each year. A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asians and Pacific Islanders. Contact your local FSA Farm Loan Manager or Officer for more details and assistance in applying.

### Applications for FSA Loans

Farmers and ranchers that intend to apply to the Farm Service Agency for loan assistance for the upcoming crop year are encouraged to file their applications as early as possible. Filing early will help ensure that your application is processed and a decision made as soon as possible so that planting decisions can be made. Failure to apply early can result in a delay in processing loans due to the volume of applications that must be processed in date order. Call us for more details and assistance in applying.

### Youth Loans

Remember FSA makes operating loans to individual rural youths age 10 through 20 to establish and operate income producing projects. These projects must be of modest size and be initiated, developed, carried out by rural youths participating in 4-H Clubs, FFA, or a similar organization or with a vocational teacher or county extension agent. The project must be an organized and supervised program of work. It must be planned and operated with the assistance of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. Contact this office for more details.



### Signature Authority Documentation

A recent audit of county offices throughout the Nation revealed improper payments made in prior years, mostly as a result of incomplete paperwork or invalid signatures.

To alleviate this problem with all future payments, FSA county offices will be reviewing applications thoroughly to ensure all forms are updated and accurate, and to verify the person signing the documents has the proper signature authorities on file in our office.

We will be asking you to update your Farm Operating Plan, the Adjusted Gross Income Certification, and the Conservation Compliance Certification. We will also check your eligibility file to ensure all necessary supporting documentation, such as deeds, leases, partnership agreements, corporation papers, trust documents, etc are on file and up to date.

### Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the county office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., we have a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information.

### Direct & Counter Cyclical Program (DCP)

To participate in DCP, producers are required to designate shares and sign the DCP contract (CCC-509) on a yearly basis. The annual DCP sign-up period runs from October 1 to June 1 of the applicable program year. CCC-509 must be submitted by June 1. CCC-509's with signatures obtained after June 1 but before September 30 will be accepted, but the farm will be assessed a late-filed sign-up fee of \$100. All supporting documentation, such as CCC-502, AD-1026, and CCC-526, must be submitted before payments can be issued.

*Planting fruits, vegetables or wild rice on base acres may adversely affect your program benefits.* Please contact this office before you plant or lease land for production of fruits, including nut trees, or vegetables to discuss acreage reporting requirements, prevention of possible violation of program provisions, payment reductions, and severe penalties.

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Solano-Napa County Farm Service Agency  
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Dixon, California 95620



COUNTY FSA OFFICE HOURS: 8am-4:30pm Monday-Friday  
Closed on Holidays  
Closed: February 19, President's Day  
May 28, Memorial Day

The Solano-Napa County Committee (COC) regularly scheduled meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 1 PM in the county FSA office. These are public meetings.

**IMPORTANT WEB PAGES**

USDA Homepage: [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)  
Farm Service Agency: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
California State FSA Homepage: [www.fsa.usda.gov/ca/](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/ca/)  
Risk Management Agency: [www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov)  
Natural Resource Conservation Service: [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)  
Solano County Ag Commissioner: [www.solanocounty.com](http://www.solanocounty.com)  
Napa County Ag Commissioner:

<http://www.co.napa.ca.us/Gov/Departments/DeptDefault.asp?DID=26400>

*Special accommodations will be made, upon request, for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment, or hearing impairment. If special accommodations are required, please call the FSA office and we will be happy to make any arrangements that are needed.*

*The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).*

*To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*